

Suggested City Executive Board response to the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee on University Housing Needs

Provided by the Board Member for Planning and Regulatory Services

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| Recommendation | Agree? | Comment |
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| <p>That options are explored through the new Local Plan 2036 processes relating to student accommodation, and that early discussions are sought with the two universities (and neighbouring authorities where relevant) aimed at building shared concerns and shared efforts to improve the housing situation in the city. Consideration should be given to:</p> <p>a) Encouraging the University of Oxford to present proposals for accommodating postdocs in the city; (para. 4)</p> <p>b) Allocating specific sites for new student accommodation for the two universities; (paras. 8a & 16)</p> <p>c) Limiting the amount of student accommodation allowed within any given geographical area; (para. 17)</p> <p>d) Encouraging the universities to provide accessible accommodation as part of any proposed new developments of student accommodation; para 18)</p> <p>e) Exempting groups such as post-doctoral researchers and nursing and teaching students from the target of no more than 3,000 students from each university living outside of university-provided accommodation in the city, balanced by a reduction in the target figures; (paras. 2a, 8b & 19)</p> <p>f) Extending the targets for students living outside of provided accommodation to other large educational institutions based in the city; (para. 20)</p> <p>g) Limiting the use of new student accommodation to the two universities; (para. 21)</p> <p>h) Whether university students housed in non-university</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>I welcome the constructive and open dialogue with the two Universities about their accommodation needs, which have been held between officers, members and the two institutions over a prolonged period, and will continue to be held.</p> <p>I recognise the positive contribution that the Universities make to the city in terms of economic growth, vitality, and employment, and the City Council wants to continue to support them. This kind of engagement is exactly what this stage of the Local Plan is all about, as we work towards publishing the Preferred Options in June 2017.</p> <p>At present detailed evidence, technical work, consultation responses from last summer, and sustainability appraisal are all being considered, and will inform the direction of policies to be published in the Preferred Options. The evidence given by the Universities to the Scrutiny Committee, and the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations, will be included in that consideration.</p> <p>While that work is still ongoing it would not be appropriate to respond in detail at this stage to the precise proposals, other than to confirm that they are all being considered alongside all other proposals. That being said, there are a number of very useful and interesting proposals within the report which are being given very careful consideration as to whether they could be included in the Preferred Options</p> |

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| <p>provided student housing should count towards the 3,000 target figure; (para. 22)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Encouraging private developers of student accommodation to work closely with the universities; (para. 23)j) Reviewing the local key worker definition to potentially include post-doctoral researchers, nursing and teaching students and lower-paid university support staff; (para. 24)k) Providing some flexibility to substitute some of the social rent planning obligations with key worker housing obligations in order to encourage key worker housing schemes (including accommodation for post-doctoral researchers and lower-paid university support staff); (para. 25)l) Providing additional flexibility in the balance of dwellings policy specifically for key worker housing schemes. (para. 26) | | <p>document.</p> <p>Given that it is not possible at this stage to pre-empt the proposals that will be included in the Preferred Options document, but being aware of the detailed work that the Scrutiny Panel have done on this issue, I propose that a full and detailed response to each proposal in the Scrutiny Panel report is sent back to the Panel once the Preferred Options document has been published.</p> |
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